

Appl. No.: 09/961,355
Amendment dated December 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of October 20, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 24-31 are now pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 19-23, 32 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuing application.

To obtain an issued patent as quickly as possible, all of the rejected claims have been canceled. Only allowed claims remain pending. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance.

The specification has been amended to better conform to the claims as allowed. No new matter has been added.


Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: December 12, 2003

By:

 Reg. No. 43,338
for Joseph M. Potenza
Registration No. 28,175

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001